

## Pros and Cons of Online Classes: Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Courses

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**Abstract:** Distance education can be used for some aspects of most disciplines. For example, several institutions of higher education already have developed certificate programs, undergraduate programs, and graduate programs in health and physical education that are delivered using distance education methods. Eastern Oregon University, Emporia State University, Kutztown University, LaSalle University, the Medical College of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, and Virginia Tech are among institutions integrating distance technology into their physical education programs. Traditional programs that are heavily based in skill development and demonstration or require laboratory work can be offered in a distance education framework using interactive video interfaced with computers to facilitate a hands-on learning approach at a distance. Classes that use lecture and laboratory experiences are easily adapted to a distance education situation. Course materials, including animals for dissection, are sent to class participants with video and written instructions and assignments.

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### Introduction:

Distance education delivers classes (live or pre-taped) to students in their home, office, or classroom. It is used by K-12, higher education, continuing education and business. As the cost of delivering quality education increases, institutions find that limited resources prevent them from building facilities, hiring faculty, or expanding curricula. They are using distance education to maximize resources and are combining their assets with others to produce programming. Distance education is offered internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally over all forms of conferencing technology.

Distance learning is expanding and examples of it are increasing dramatically. Fewer than 10 states were using distance learning in 1987; today, virtually all states have an interest or effort in distance education. Distance learning systems connect the teacher with the students when physical face-to-face interaction is not possible. Telecommunications systems carry instruction, moving information instead of people. The technology at distant locations are important and affect how interaction takes place, what information resources are used, and how effective the system is likely to be.

Technology transports information, not people. Distances between teachers and students are bridged with an array of familiar technology as well as new information age equipment. What sets today's distance education efforts apart from previous efforts is the possibility of an interactive capacity that

provides learner and teacher with needed feedback, including the opportunity to dialogue, clarify, or assess. Advances in digital compression technology may greatly expand the number of channels that can be sent over any transmission medium, doubling or even tripling channel capacity. Technologies for learning at a distance are also enlarging our definition of how students learn, where they learn, and who teaches them. No one technology is best for all situations and applications. Different technologies have different capabilities and limitations, and effective implementation will depend on matching technological capabilities to education needs.

Distance education places students and their instructors in separate locations using some form of technology to communicate and interact. The student may be located in the classroom, home, office or learning center. The instructor may be located in a media classroom, studio, office or home.

The student may receive information via satellite, microwave, or fiber optic cable, television (broadcast, cable or Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS), video cassette or disk, telephone - audio conferencing bridge or direct phone line, audio cassette, printed materials - text, study guide, or handout, computer - modem or floppy disk, and compressed video. Recent rapid development of technology has resulted in systems that are powerful, flexible, and increasingly affordable. The base of available information technology resources is increasing with dramatic speed. Much has been

learned about connecting various forms of technology into systems, so that the ability to link systems is growing. Most distance learning systems are hybrids, combining several technologies, such as satellite, ITFS, microwave, cable, fiber optic, and computer connections.

Interactivity is accomplished via telephone (one-way video and two-way audio), two-way video or graphics interactivity, two-way computer hookups, two-way audio. Interactivity may be delayed but interaction provided by teacher telephone office hours when students can call or through time with on-site facilitators. Classes with large numbers of students have a limited amount of interactivity. Much of the activity on computer networks is on a delayed basis as well. Possibilities for audio and visual interaction are increasingly wide.

In the earlier days of distance learning, it was most common to see distance learning used for rural students who were at a distance from an educational institution. The student might watch a telecourse on a television stations, read texts, mail in assignments and then travel to the local college to take an exam. This model is still in use, but as the technology has become more sophisticated and the cost of distance learning dropped as equipment prices dropped, the use of distance education has increased.

High front-end costs prevented an early widespread adoption of electronically mediated learning. Distance learning has been aggressively adopted in many areas because it can meet specific educational needs. As the concept of accountability became accepted and laws required certain courses in high school in order for students to be admitted to state colleges, telecommunications was examined as a way to provide student access to the required courses. Many rural school districts could not afford the special teachers to conduct required courses. Distance education met this need by providing courses in schools where teachers were not available or were too costly to provide for a few students. It also fulfilled a need for teacher training and staff development in locations where experts and resources were difficult to obtain. These systems link learner communities with each other and bring a wide array of experts and information to the classroom.

Challenges which faced the early users of distance education are still with us today. If distance education is to play a greater role in improving the quality of education, it will require expanded technology; more linkages between schools, higher education, and the private sector; and more teachers who use technology well. Teachers must be involved in planning the systems, trained to use the tools they provide, and given the flexibility to revise their teaching. Federal and state regulations will need

revision to ensure a more flexible and effective use of technology. Connections have been established across geographic, instructional, and institutional boundaries which provide opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing among many groups. In the pooling of students and teachers, distance learning reconfigures the classroom which no longer is bounded by the physical space of the school, district, state or nation.

The key to success in distance learning is the teacher. If the teacher is good, the technology can become almost transparent. No technology can overcome poor teaching which is actually exacerbated in distance education applications. When skilled teachers are involved, enthusiasm, expertise, and creative use of the media can enrich students beyond the four walls of their classroom.

Teachers need training in the system's technical aspects and in the educational applications of the technology. Areas for assistance include the amount of time needed to prepare and teach courses, how to establish and maintain effective communication with students, strategies for adding visual components to audio courses, ways to increase interaction between students and faculty, planning and management of organizational details, and strategies for group cohesion and student motivation.

The interchange of ideas requires different communication methods than in conventional classrooms: information technologies are predominantly visual media, rather than the textual and auditory environment of the conventional classroom, the affective content of mediated messages is muted compared to face-to-face interaction, and complex cognitive content can be conveyed more readily in electronic form because multiple representations of material (e.g., animations, text, verbal descriptions, and visual images) can be presented to give learners many ways of understanding the fundamental concept.

#### **Pros and Cons of Online Classes: Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Courses**

Distance learning is a hot subject today, but is it really for you? It is best not to hurry when choosing a college or university, lest you find yourself a victim of hype. Online courses are a new revolutionary way of providing education. Even traditional institutions are increasingly incorporating the Internet e-learning online interaction means and software tools into their programs.

#### **What do the education institutions offer?**

Archived video footage and virtual real-time lectures, online assignments and presentations, electronic academic material, multimedia as part of

classrooms – all these have been part of higher education for a while now.

However, Online Education means taking entire degree program online, via your laptop. This means an entirely new experience, yet not everybody is ready for it.

Taking Online Classes via Online education program requires specific learning skills, which some people lack.

### **The Pros of Online Classes:**

The key advantages of using an online class are –

#### **1. Time flexibility**

For some people there is nothing worse than getting up before 9 in the morning. Traditional higher education often requires just that. But with online education students have the possibility to adjust schedules to their life, rather than adjust their life to predetermined schedules. Other people benefit greatly from it too: parents, full-time employees, and anyone else who for this or that reason is too busy to attend traditional classes.

#### **2. Geographic flexibility**

Online institutions make possible something unprecedented: it no longer matters where you live. You can live in one of the world and study daily at an institution based in another without ever leaving your native country, or even your room, for that matter. Even in terms of local travel online education is a revolution: there are no more bus, train, or car trips, no traffic jams, no being late for the bus/train, no time and money spent on travel.

#### **3. Class Notes**

Not everybody knows how to write great class notes. Online courses provide electronic transcripts of every lecture. This is great for anyone who has short attention spans or does not like to write during lectures.

#### **4. More educational means**

Much more so that in traditional classrooms, online education incorporates online multimedia possibilities into instruction.

### **Possible cons of online classes include:**

What are the Disadvantages of Online Courses? Here are some

#### **1. Credits**

Not all online course credits are transferable to traditional degree programs!

#### **2. Require self-discipline**

Excellent self-discipline and time management without the aid of strict schedules, attendance requirements, and personal communication

#### **3. Lack of interpersonal interaction**

No interpersonal relationships with other teachers or students; only via email, message boards, and other online means of communication.

### **Disadvantages of Online Classes: Disadvantages to Consider**

This article will focus on the disadvantage of taking Online Classes. Online education is not exactly a trend yet, but it is becoming increasingly popular.

The reason for this is that it offers new opportunities where none existed before – Many people wouldn't have been able to acquire the necessary higher education without it. However, like all things in life, taking Online Classes has some drawbacks and disadvantages as compared to the traditional classrooms.

That said, online classes are not perfect for everyone. To avoid getting caught in the hype and making the wrong decision, consider the pros and cons of online education.

### **Taking Online Classes – Disadvantages**

Let us review the weaknesses :

#### **1. Lack of Socializing**

Taking courses through the net completely erases the concept of socializing. Although there are online class discussions in online education, it is still not always an easy way to interact. This method completely eliminates the possibility to meet classmates face to face in and outside the classroom.

#### **2. Lack of Close Personal Contact with Teachers**

Besides being unable to socialize with other students, there is no way to arrange personal face-to-face meetings with the teachers. This, too, can be a significant disadvantage for those students who are motivated by close personal connection, discussion, and advice. Online tutorials definitely do not provide this vital touch and online discussions may not be intimate enough to provide the same powerful stimulus.

#### **3. Classroom Attendance – None**

This may sound like a good thing to some, but for many this is a major flaw of the online system. Some simply cannot focus on their own, while sharing an actual room with other motivated students right in front of them is a great incentive to concentrate and understand. Others simply love the

atmosphere of campus classrooms and would never give them up.

#### 4. Self-Discipline

Studying via the net from home means you have more freedom and more responsibility for managing your time and effort. It is important to know that you are able to invest enough effort into studies without the stricter discipline imposed by traditional institutions and without their added incentives of classroom attendance and personal meetings.

#### 5. Accessibility

Most people would have no problem accessing online education and that is one of its major plusses. Still, some simply do not have the required Internet connectivity (the required bandwidth for taking online class) or no personal computer they could comfortably use for prolonged private study sessions.

For these people campus-based courses are actually much better, since they provide an environment for group and individualized study: classrooms, offices, libraries, etc.

#### 6. Accreditation and Employment

This is one of the most serious aspects of the online education. It is still an emerging system and many authorities and employers officially do not recognize many online diplomas. Moreover, even if a degree is from an officially accredited online institution, many employees still prefer candidates with traditional degrees.

#### Advantages of Online Classes: Benefits of Online Classes

Imagine a future without campuses and classrooms. Instead there will be academic cyberspace and scholarly chat rooms. Accredited academic programs world-wide will be given via the Internet, producing an unprecedented global number of world experts in every field.

This is not yet the case today, but online schools are already offering great opportunities where none existed only a few years ago.

Higher education is becoming easily available to people who would otherwise never even dream of it – Adults who work full time, family people, people from remote countries all over the world converging in world-class learning centers.

Because online education is still a new field, it is important to know exactly what it can and cannot offer you.

#### What are the benefits of online classes?

##### Advantages of taking Online Classes

Some of the Pros of enrolling to Online Education and taking online courses:

##### 1. General Convenience

Generally speaking, online classes are more convenient since you do not need to leave home to take them. Time table is flexible and there is generally more freedom. It is also simply convenient to be able to study anywhere while being able to do many of the required things almost any time of the day, like on the train when going home from work.

##### 2. Time Considerations

Online courses save a lot of valuable time, especially if you are an adult with a career and a family to take care of. Basically, you log on to the class/course site and you are “at the university” – no need to take long rides back and forth or trudge from one end of the campus to another (and some campuses can stretch across an entire city and require bicycles or buses).

##### 3. Online Teaching Possibilities – New cutting edge technologies

Online classes offer many innovative possibilities of communication. Where in a traditional classroom everything would have to be done in face to face interactions, which has its advantages but is also often inconvenient or simply impossible (for some).

An online class environment eliminates certain boundaries and constraints, allowing easy near-instant access to information, resources, libraries, extensive photo and video archives, and personal meetings compressed, through the power of the Internet, from hours to minutes.

##### 4. Whom Online Class Suits Best

- Disciplined students with excellent time management skills who do not need teachers and strict predetermined programs to do their best.
- Students who wish to study in a specific country or institution which is otherwise not accessible to them (geographic convenience).
- Students who cannot afford traditional education – Online schools are generally less expensive.
- Students who dislike campus requirements. Although for many, the campus life is the best time of their life, some people prefer

the privacy of their homes. Online education is ideal for them.

- Students who cannot afford traditional education due to busy professional or personal schedules.

### **Online Classes VS Traditional Classes: Comparison between the Two Methods**

Nowadays it is not enough to choose the university you want to learn at. Today, you have to first decide whether you want an online degree or an offline/traditional education.

Online education is a growing force in the field of additional and higher education. It is probable that in the near future, within a decade or two, online education will be the global standard.

Considering the differences between these two methodologies of education can provide you the basic knowledge and even surprising opportunities.

### **Online Classes VS Traditional Classes Attendance**

Traditional institutions require physical presence and participation in classrooms. This entails extensive travel and expenses. For many only this already makes higher education impossible. Online education requires no traveling at all, saving time, money, and energy. Busy people will therefore be able to combine extensive studies with work and family. Education is available to sailors on submarines and to astronauts in space!

### **Virtual classrooms vs. real classrooms**

There are two camps around this issue – Those who love attending campus-based lecture and those would rather stay at home. Virtual education means there are no campuses and no classrooms. For those who prefer to be at home and are comfortable with cyber-space this is a virtual paradise. For those who are technophobic, get confused by online multimedia, and who prefer direct human contact this may be a veritable digitalized hell. But the amount of people who are uncomfortable with technology and the internet is decreasing exponentially. Most people are addicted to the internet. And video communication is becoming standard nowadays, allowing top-quality group video communication online.

### **Traditional and Online Schedules**

Online institutions deliver many or all courses via modules. These modules can be scheduled by the student him or herself to be taken virtually at any time of day or night. This is obviously impossible with traditional classes, however requires a high

degree of self-motivation and the ability to meet requirements while enjoying greater freedom.

### **The Value of online classes/degree earned as compared to the traditional ones**

When it comes to quality, going to Online Classes becomes universal as going to a traditional college class. One has to remember that the world is changed rapidly and the online education is now a great alternative to the traditional one. Just like a person got used to choose between campus-based colleges and universities, today the online education grows to be an option. Of course, with its different varying quality of degrees, just like any on-campus degrees.

These are just some of the differences between these two educational methods.

### **The benefits of Taking Online Courses: Why should you take it Online?**

Let us consider the advantages of taking online classes:

#### **1. Recognition:**

First things first, online courses are widely accepted and sought after by employers. It is not something that people shun away from. In fact, a research conducted by DETC has revealed that more than 70% of employers look forward to recruiting people who possess online degrees rather than their traditional counterparts.

#### **2. Being your own boss:**

Traditional education requires teachers to impart education to students and monitor and evaluate their performances as well. If you are one of those who hate being nagged by someone, then online courses are meant for you. You can study on your own and keep yourself motivated without the interference of any one.

#### **3. Accessibility and comfort:**

Online courses are a respite for all those who hate functioning in a preplanned and methodical way.

Online classes enable students to study whenever they want to and from where ever they can. They can study from within the comforts of their homes. Further, online courses suit working professionals the most.

#### **4. Reading and not listening:**

Online courses require students to study referring to online textual content sent by universities. Thus, they can escape the monotonous lectures and long classrooms hours yet be well acquainted with the study materials.

**5. Individualistic minds at work:**

Online courses are the best for those who hate social interactions and love to be on their own. The courses alienate all sorts of distractive elements that may be present in a traditional classroom. Thus, a student can enjoy his/her peace of mind.

**6. Resource center:**

Online courses enable students to refer to notes or relevant study material by visiting the archived section. This is not so in traditional classrooms. If a student misses a class lecture, he/she misses the study content as well.

You would now surely agree that **accredited online courses** have the same worth as the traditional ones.

**Conclusion:**

In general, new methods of educational systems to countries around the world as a necessity and need for learning and training opportunities to study in areas with different climatic features and conditions of learning and education according to their gender and cultures, has been. Each method is mentioned with regard to changes in features and creates an education system, and evaluation is used. Judgement of distance education in an educational way, first as a necessity to eliminate barriers to educational climate and geographical areas, age and gender restrictions learners began their work And more in a death education system, especially in the philosophy and goals based on theories of learning theories have evolved to find and promote professional growth. Approach to distance education with regard to the necessity of education in countries formed.

Emergence and development of information societies is the consequences of industrialization. Despite the diversity of information in various forms of media in local, national and international, access, exchange and use of various information easier than last time is. Information society, a member of your buddies know that open information system in terms of geographical location and the last 25 years, organizational development, are limited. Distance learning faster than other forms of training has been.

Growth factor in the economic interests of this type of educational approach, flexibility and remove the distance can be named. The methods of distance education, required for building physical education is not providing services. Teachers and trainers in this method - compared with traditional methods - and have more opportunities to more people than are being trained. In this type of teaching style of each person in each academic field, and each job can be arbitrary in time and space, trained without having to

leave the house for work or business is education. This method requires that students are dispersed over long distances provides. Distance learning advantages of distance education in comparison with traditional education, the need for physical locations and training programs limited to no specific time period. In this type of teaching style, learning for life without possibility of spatial and temporal constraints for each individual there. In distance education, problems related to lack of qualified teachers and appropriate educational environment - as it posed in the traditional method of M is - is resolved. In this way the use of advanced features in digital libraries and search the various sites during the study, time and cost savings are.

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